



# QUARTERLY NEWS LETTER

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## The Book Club of California

FOUNDED IN 1912, The Book Club of California is a non-profit association of booklovers and collectors who have a special interest in Pacific Coast history, literature, and fine printing. Its chief aims are to further the interests of book collectors in the West and to promote an understanding and appreciation of fine books.

The Club is limited to seven hundred and fifty members. When vacancies exist membership is open to all who are in sympathy with its aims and whose applications are approved by the Board of Directors. Regular Membership involves no responsibilities beyond payment of the annual dues of \$12.00. Dues date from the month of the member's election.

Members receive the *Quarterly News-Letter* and all parts of the current Keepsake series, *Pioneer Western Playbills*. They have the privilege, but not the obligation, of buying the Club publications which are limited, as a rule, to one copy per member.

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*Spring*  
1952

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This is the first of a series of articles on California libraries. It is hoped in the next few issues to give *News-Letter* readers "peeks" at the Bancroft, Huntington, William Andrews Clark, and other equally famous institutions.

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## A Peek at Sutro Library

by *Richard Dillon\**

SAN FRANCISCO'S *bon vivants* were probably still nursing magnum-sized headaches (garnered while piloting the New Year across the bar) when Sutro Library opened its doors to the public for the first time. The aureorean year was 1917; the day, January 2.

Adolph Sutro's heirs had presented the library to the State of California with the only string attached being a proviso that the collection be located in San Francisco. Thus it came to pass that Sutro Library was set up as a sort of far-flung outpost of the California State Library, with the incorporation made legally binding via an act of law.

Adolph Sutro, mining engineer and mayor of San Francisco, desired the establishment of a European-type scholarly library in The City and set out himself to insure this end. He bought books in great quantities in Mexico, on the Continent, and in

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\*Research librarian, Sutro Branch, California State Library.

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England. He has often been accused of purchasing tomes by the *vara* in Mexico; and the fact that often the number of duplicates of a volume of the *Gazeta de Mexico*, let us say, will soar to six or seven lends credence to this claim. (It is surprising that Lawrence Clark Powell was able to net as much as he did after the wholesale biblio-kidnapping practiced by such pioneers as Bancroft and Sutro.)

Purchasing, during the 1880's, volumes from the Dalberg Library, the Sunderland or Blenheim Library, the library of the Carthusian monastery at Buxheim (near Ingolstadt), and the duplicates of the Royal Bavarian State Library at Munich, he proceeded to establish his collection in a Battery Street building where a cadre of catalogers and a bookbinder began to whip it into shape. Soon additional space was needed as books formed stalagmitic columns on tables and overflowed shelves. The second floor of the "Ark of Empire," the old Montgomery Block, was taken over as an auxiliary storehouse.

After Mr. Sutro's death in 1898, his collection—surely the largest private library in the world, since it numbered some 250,000 volumes—was almost forgotten as his estate became entangled in litigation. The tremors of April 1906, which shook Caruso from his slumbers, were the signal for the disastrous fire which almost wiped out the Sutro Library, together with a large part of San Francisco itself. The Battery Street building was destroyed by the fire but the Montgomery Block was spared. However, looters broke into the building and tore pages from newspapers and books to wrap around cigars they had stolen from a storehouse on the ground floor of the building.

Dr. Emma Sutro Merritt, Adolph Sutro's daughter, worked desperately to save the collection and it was largely due to her efforts that it was eventually given to the State in 1913 and opened four years later. Around 90,000 volumes remained of the more than quarter million in the original collection.

This figure, it must be remembered, is only an approximate one and stands only for the number of bound volumes on the shelves. In the case of the Sutro Library, such a figure is particularly misleading, since much of the most valuable research material is found in the form of manuscripts, broadsides, maps, and other ephemeral materials. One bound volume may con-



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tain dozens, or even scores, of English or Mexican pamphlets bound together helter-skelter.

It has been estimated that the vast amount of unbound pamphlets, letters, and other manuscripts, charts, diagrams, and broadsides in the Sir Joseph Banks papers would add another 175,000 pieces to the figure given earlier. This is a conservative guess; those who do not play it close to the vest would claim perhaps 300,000.

There are two principal facets to the collection, the group of rarities used largely for exhibition and the vast remainder used for reference and research. The first category includes numerous Latin books on religious, medical, and scientific subjects. There are a 1496 *Nuremberg Chronicle*, a 1478 *St. Thomas Aquinas* (very handsomely illuminated), and an example of Peter Schoeffer's work. This last volume (1470) bears a note under the distinctive colophon which states in a Renaissance hand that Schoeffer is the inventor of printing. The volume itself is the *Letters of St. Jerome*.

Other treasures are the personal psalters of Kings James I and Charles II, Chaucer's *Woorkes* in the 1561 London edition, the first, second, third, and fourth Shakespeare folios, and Shakespeariana documents from the Halliwell-Phillipps Collection. Sutro Library shares with New York Public Library the honor of possessing the only copies in the country of the first book printed in the Americas, Antonio de Mendoza's *Ordenanças y copilacion de leyes . . .* (Mexico, 1548).

Americana rarities worthy of note are a letter of Martha Washington to Mrs. Fairfax (Martha's destruction of her own letters and George's correspondence has occasioned much moaning and tearing of hair on the part of biographers of our first president), and a 1581 *Bible* which belonged to Father Serra. It contains the phrase "Es de la misión del Carmelo" in his own hand. Adolph Sutro received this *Bible* as a gift of Father Casanova. Another interesting bit of Californiana is the manuscript volume *Memorias de viages* (1769) which includes Gaspar de Portolá's *Viages de mar y tierra hechos al norte de la California*.

Of the estimated 3,000 incunabula possessed by Mr. Sutro, believed to be about one-seventh of the world's known total

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at that time, only some forty-odd volumes escaped the holocaust to take their places on the shelves again.

As for the research-use segment of the collection, there is a fine group of voyages and travels, beginning with De Bry's classic set, which complements the large section of historical works. There is also a lot of material available for the study of English literature, such as rare pamphlets of Swift, Defoe, Milton, and Boswell. The real treasure in the English materials is the collection of 25,000 pamphlets and broadsides covering all phases of English history. The Seventeenth Century group is particularly strong and provides a unique storehouse of information on the West Coast for the period of Cromwell, the Stuarts, and the Glorious Revolution. It is said that this group of pamphlets was gathered and used by Macaulay in the writing of his monumental history.

The library is valuable for any serious study of the Catholic Church in Spain and, especially, Mexico, with published works ranging from the Sixteenth through the Nineteenth Centuries, and some manuscripts. During the late unlamented 1930's, the Sutro Library project (one of the Works Progress Administration sponsored historical research programs) claimed that the collection on the Catholic Church was the largest in the western part of the United States.

Two special collections should be noted, the Hebrew and Japanese units. The former consists of 140 manuscripts and about 300 books and pamphlets dating from the Fourteenth to the Nineteenth Centuries. Many are lovely hand-lettered parchment and vellum religious scrolls, but poetry and philosophy are also represented. The Nipponese collection includes numerous flower-arrangement manuals, primers and other school texts, novels, and historical works. Their illustrations are wonderful; any one who admires the prints of Hokusai or Hiroshige will delight in these works. Some eighty-five were placed on exhibit in the San Francisco Public Library during the Japanese Peace Conference as examples of Japanese book-illustration techniques.

The Sutro Library is often contacted by students of American and California history, under the impression that the collection is a transbay parallel of the Bancroft Library. This is



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only partly true, and mostly in the Mexican sphere. Actually, there is not too much Californiana in the library, save the files of early Sacramento and San Francisco newspapers such as the *Wide West* and *Golden Era*. One happy feature of the library's newspaper resources is the inclusion of files of ephemeral periodicals of the Pacific Coast theatrical world, with *Figaro*, *The Footlight*, and the rare sporting magazine, *Pacific Life*, among those present. The manuscript journal of John McCabe has proved itself invaluable in theatrical research, being a chronological list of actors and plays appearing on the boards of Victorian San Francisco. More and more interest is being aroused in the theatrical history of the Pacific Slope but publications so far have been mere test borings, only indicating the deep strata of interesting, little-known history which exists.

In general Americana, Sutro Library possesses a fine group of sermons, tracts, and orations, which throw much light on society during the Colonial and early national periods. One unit of these is worthy of special mention—the 468 tracts printed in America between 1720 and 1810, purchased at Sotheby's in 1885 from the stock of bookdealer Frederick Starbridge Ellis.

Manuscripts are both varied and numerous in the collection, the greatest part of them belonging to the Sir Joseph Banks Collection. These materials, many of which are mutely imploring to be published, are a fabulous primary source of historical information. They cover all phases of life in which the president of the Royal Society was interested, and the catholicity of Banks' interest was only exceeded by the keenness of his curiosity. His acute mind grappled with problems of naval architecture, botany and agriculture, wool and sheep raising, exploration, fire extinguishers, ballooning, fens drainage, navigation, counterrevolutionary measures, the exploitation of Hudson's Bay and the Pacific Northwest coast, the South Seas, *ad infinitum*.

Letters are here from Captain Bligh, Arthur Young, Matthew Flinders, Mungo Park, and others. There are diagrams and drawings, navigational charts and sailing directions, plans of *H.M.S. Bounty* and other ships. An examination of these

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papers provides a breezy education in the social history of Great Britain at the time of George III.

No bibliophilic visitor to San Francisco should miss going to the San Francisco Public Library to see this treasure trove; no native Yerba Buena should forego the opportunity of inspecting such a rich and varied harvest of the printed word.

## THE BOOK IN CHINA

*by R. C. Rudolph\**

CHINA is the home of the inventors of paper and printing—both by block and movable type. What richer area could there be for the study of the evolution of the book?

We do not know just when the Chinese first started to write, but countless written records have been left to us on bone, tortoise shell, and bronze, that date back to the middle of the second millenium B. C.

Writing on the plastron of the tortoise and scapulæ of animals was done for oracular purposes and was generally incised, although in some instances a varnishlike writing fluid was used. The inscriptions for bronze vessels used in rituals were first carved on the original wax model and later became an integral part of the vessel when it was finally cast in metal. The inscriptions on bone and the earliest bronzes were short, but after about 1000 B. C. inscriptions on bronzes were longer, sometimes amounting to several hundred characters.

Books as such have not been transmitted from that remote period when bone was used as a writing material, but undoubtedly they did exist at that time. The character denoting a written book occurs in some of the inscriptions on bone dating from the fourteenth century B. C. This character, now pronounced *ts'ê* and still used in its modern form to indicate a volume, consisted of four vertical lines crossed near top and bottom by two

\*Associate professor and chairman of the newly organized Department of Oriental Languages at UCLA. In 1948-1949, he was Fulbright Scholar in China. Last year, the University of California published his *Han Tomb Art of West China*.



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horizontal lines. The famous Chinese etymological dictionary, finished around A. D. 100, said that this character was a pictograph of books that were written on bamboo slips. These slips, after having been written on, were placed in proper order and then connected at top and bottom by strings bound around them. The finished book thus somewhat resembled an old-fashioned slat hammock. The bones themselves may have been used to form books because some of the scapulæ are notched and numbered on the socket ends indicating that they were to be placed in numerical order.

Bronzes of some centuries later actually did serve the purpose of books. An early historical text tells us that the criminal code of one state was cast on a set of bronze vessels in 536 B.C. Descriptions of historical events have been recorded in bronze and the texts of at least twenty-nine documents or books have been copied into the inscriptions on ceremonial bronzes made almost three millennia ago. These are the ones that have survived and have been found; there is no doubt that countless books were written on perishable material in this remote period.

It is obvious that books were extremely common from the fifth century B. C. because the texts of so many works of this period have survived. These were written on bamboo or wood slips and bound in the manner described above. Sometimes silk, already in use for a thousand years, was used as a writing material, but information on its use at this date is meager. A large store of such books dating from the third century B. C. were found in A. D. 281. Reliable contemporary records tell us that in that year a royal tomb was violated and in it were found a number of works written on bamboo slips that were placed in the tomb in 299 B. C. A few years ago, an archaeological expedition found such a bamboo book in Chinese Turkistan where it had been preserved by the dry sands of that region. It consisted of seventy-eight bamboo slips tied together in the same manner described in the First Century etymological dictionary mentioned above. This text, an inventory of military stores in the Chinese garrisons there, was written between A. D. 94 and 96. Needless to say, the bulk of the writing at this time was done with a stylus and heavy lacquer fluid, and was not incised. When we understand the nature of these early

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books, we more readily understand the reason for so much textual corruption in early works that have been transmitted down to the present day. Not only were these bamboo slips subject to partial destruction by the damp Chinese climate and the work of pernicious insects, but they could easily become disarranged, or some of the slips lost. Some of the errors in the present texts of the early classics can be traced directly to this cause.

It is not difficult to imagine how unwieldy and space-taking even a modest library would be in which all of the works were recorded on bamboo slips. Thus, a great step forward in the evolution of the book occurred when silk was used as a writing material instead of bamboo or wood. Although there are references to its having been used earlier, we know that silk came into common use for writing in the third century B. C. The use of silk either brought about or resulted from another important step in the development of the book—the invention of an ink that was not so heavy as the earlier lacquer-type writing fluid which was used on the more solid materials.

Although silk was widely used after the third century B. C., bamboo and wood were still used for some time. This can clearly be shown in the bibliographical records of the Western Han Dynasty (206 to 24 B. C.), where they indicate the number of volumes by two entirely different characters, *ts'e* and *chuan*. The first character indicates, as we have shown above, connected bamboo slips forming a book, while *chuan* means a length of silk that is rolled up to form a scroll. Both of these terms are still used in Chinese, and we have a parallel in the West in the word volume. This comes from Latin *volumen*, which means a roll or coil, and is derived from the verb *volvere*, which means to roll. In a like manner, the Chinese word *chuan* pronounced in one tone means the volume or roll of silk, and pronounced in another tone it has the meaning of the verb to roll. In spite of its advantages over bamboo, silk was a very costly material to be used for writing, and both of these materials disappeared rapidly when paper came into use. A scholar of the Second Century reflected what must have been the general attitude when he wrote to a friend as follows: "I send you the works of the philosopher Hsü in ten scrolls—unable to



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afford a copy on silk, I am obliged to send you one on paper.”

Although the official date for the invention of paper is A. D. 105, we know that a type of paper made from silk floss was used much earlier. The invention and manufacture of paper opened new horizons for the spread of writing and the production of books. It had all the advantages of silk and yet was much cheaper. Strangely enough, paper was used for a long time in the same way that silk was used. The persistence of ideas is clearly shown by the fact that although paper was made in small sheets, for seven or eight centuries it was pasted together end to end until it was long enough to form a scroll. Books in the form of paper scrolls were treated in the same way as the earlier books written with silk; they were mounted on rollers with different colored ends to indicate the class of literature to which the particular work belonged. Five to ten of these scrolls were kept in a cloth container. The present-day counterpart of this cloth container is the *t'ao*, a cardboard wrap-around type of container in which the modern small Chinese volumes are held together and protected.

Around the turn of the century, an astounding bibliographical find was made near the town of Tun Huang in the extreme northwest of China. A hermit monk while repairing one of the hundreds of shrines carved in a cliff there accidentally discovered a side chamber that had been sealed off and had all traces of the entrance obliterated. This secret room contained a library that had been hidden there for safe keeping by the former inhabitants of this Buddhist center shortly after the year 1000 when there was civil strife in that area. This forgotten hoard comprised about 13,500 paper rolls, each about a foot in width and fifteen to twenty feet in length, besides some hundreds of booklets, and bundles of painting on silk and cotton. Thus, we have incontestable evidence of the book existing in roll form down into the Eleventh Century.

The first great advance from the scroll towards the book as we know it, was the pleated or accordion-type folded book with writing on only one side of the paper. It was simply a long strip of paper, the same that was used for the scroll, folded in pleats. Examples of this type of book that eliminated the tedious task of unrolling a long scroll have been found in the

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famous hidden library at Tun Huang and can be dated to the T'ang Dynasty (618-907). This type of book is still in use today in Buddhist temples. Later on, the right-hand edges of these pleats were fastened together, forming what the Chinese call "whirlwind binding." This is sometimes also called a Sutra binding because it was commonly used for Buddhist Scriptures.

This method was not very satisfactory and gradually evolved into what is known as a "butterfly binding." In this type of binding, a large sheet was printed on one side only and then folded in the center. A number of such sheets were gathered and the folded edges were pasted together, thus forming a book of separate leaves printed on one side only, which opened out from the spine in a graceful curve, which suggested the name. This book was often bound in stiff covers and placed vertically on the shelf as Western books are but, of course, every other page was blank.

The butterfly binding was common until around the Fourteenth Century when it was replaced by the "wrapped-back" binding. In this type of binding, the sheet was folded so that the blank sides faced each other, and the margin of the folded edge was used to number the pages and the chapters and to give the binder a guide as to where the pages should be folded. The term "wrapped-back" comes from the fact that a piece of cloth or a paper is wrapped around the back of the book as its case.

This was shortly followed by the type of binding that is still in vogue today—the pierced or stabbed binding. The folded sheets were again piled on each other, as in the wrapped-back binding, but the free ends were punctured and sewn through with thread. This made for a pliable book which could not stand up vertically, but had to be placed flat. It is for this reason that most Chinese books carry the title on the lower end, the one the observer sees as he faces the shelf. Today, many Chinese books are bound with stiff covers in the "foreign style" binding.

These are the major steps in the evolution of the Chinese book, without any reference to printing, from the incised oracle bones of the fourteenth century B.C. to the scientific journals of today. It only remains to say that the world's first printed book, *The Diamond Sutra*, a Chinese Buddhist scripture was printed in 868 on a roll of paper eighteen feet long.



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### ¶ A Literary Questionnaire

THIS prize contest on books and authors was sponsored by the Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America. As Huck Finn once remarked of *Pilgrim's Progress*, its contents are "interesting but tough." The answers will be found on page 43.

1. What is the first book printed in the English language?
2. What English classic, which had several hundred editions, has only been translated into 3 languages, one Oriental?
3. Name a book in which the chief character is:
  - a. A miserly bookseller.
  - b. A bankrupt bookseller.
  - c. An itinerant bookseller.
  - d. A kindly and improvident bookseller.
4. What is the first book printed in America written by a Negro?
5. Name American author's first book originally published in the following places:
  - a. Fort Scott, Kansas.
  - b. Venice, Italy.
  - c. Honolulu, Hawaii.
  - d. Dijon, France.
  - e. Oxford, England.
  - f. Dayton, Ohio.
  - g. Galesburg, Illinois.
6. This lady was an educator, writer, bookseller and publisher. A spinster, she had two very famous brothers-in-law. Emerson taught her Greek. She assisted Bronson Alcott in teaching school. She opened the first kindergarten in America. What is her name?
7. A copy of what book, written by a man who became president of the United States, was placed on board every ship in the U. S. Navy?
8. What book by an American literary pundit, allegedly published in New York, London, Toronto, Sydney and Baltimore, is described on the title-page as, "First (and Last) Edition"?
9. Give author, title and date of the book that named America.
10. Whose immensely successful career as a writer of children's books, was launched by the public response to a story written for the benefit of a San Francisco kindergarten, and sold for 25c a copy?
11. What exceedingly popular novelist was launched upon a literary career by the great Chicago fire of 1871?
12. This American was an admiralty judge, collector of customs, composer, crayon portraitist, drygoods store proprietor, political satirist, translator of the Psalter, and signer of the Declaration. What is his name?
13. What American artist and pioneer photographer was active in a political movement based on religious intolerance?

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14. What American writer, later a close friend of Bret Harte and Mark Twain, at the age of 17, as a result of reading *Moby Dick*, then just published, shipped on a whaler and spent 3½ years in the South Seas and Arctic?
15. What classics were first published in French, written by:
  - a. an Englishman.
  - b. an American.
  - c. an Irishman.
16. What book or pamphlet has sold at auction in America in the last 25 years, for the highest price per page?
17. Name 4 male authors who took as pseudonyms the names of women.
18. What famous author of children's books wrote a book on shop window dressing?
19. Identify:
  - a. Felix the Cat.
  - b. Felix on the Bat.
20. What plant, associated with a holiday, was named after a man whose writing did much to establish an American scientific institution?
21. What journalist was successfully sued by the doctor whom he accused of killing more people by bleeding than he saved by his medical attentions?
22. What American novelist was formerly a Moravian monk?
23. Of what famous books are the following subtitles:
  - a. . . . A Tale of the Christ.
  - b. . . . A Romance of Exmoor.
  - c. . . . The Parish Boy's Progress.
  - d. . . . A Narrative of 1757.
24. Name an American novel dedicated to:
  - a. The Bunker Hill Monument.
  - b. A mountain.
  - c. The Goddess of Good Taste.
  - d. Any man, woman or critic who will cut the edges.

## Serendipity

AS THIS *News-Letter* goes to press, comes word from UCLA of the acquisition by the library of Michael Sadleir's famous collection of Nineteenth Century British fiction. Sadleir—publisher, bibliographer, novelist, and book-collector—spent a lifetime forming this magnificent 12,000-volume collection. “(It) is probably the finest of its kind in the world,” says Dr. Lawrence Clark Powell, UCLA's energetic and far-sighted librarian, who was instrumental in obtaining the books. Many of the items are “three-deckers,” a form of three-volume publication highly popular in the last century. These are notoriously difficult to find, especially in fine condition. UCLA—and California—is to be congratulated on acquiring so rich a mine for research into the literature, literary taste, and social history of Victorian England.

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And talking of UCLA, more than 200 wise persons have joined the Friends of the Library, an organization recently started there. The dues are \$6.00 a year, and entitle members to library privileges and all keepsakes and other publications issued by the library. The committee includes these names: W. W. Robinson, president; Majl Ewing, secretary; J. Gregg Layne, treasurer; Lindley Bynum, Robert J. Woods, and Charles K. Adams.

The first keepsake distributed to members was issued in November 1951, when the first meeting was held at UCLA. A collection of addresses entitled: *Rare Books and Research* by James T. Babb, John W. Waughey, Majl Ewing, George L. Harding, Neal Harlow, and Henry R. Wagner, designed by Ward Ritchie and printed at the University of California Press, commemorated the event.

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Recently published in England and distributed in this country by Club member Philip C. Duschnes, is *Jerusalem* by William Blake, reproduced in color from the unique copy owned by Colonel William Stirling. In the opinion of Mr. Duschnes, "This is not only the finest book Blake ever did, but it is also the finest reproduction of any book ever made." Two hundred and fifty copies have been reserved for sale in America. The price is \$90.00. If you wish further information, Mr. Duschnes' address is 66 East 56th St., New York 22, New York.

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A little late for Christmas, but nonetheless still welcome, is *Books and Printing: a Treasury for Typophiles*, edited, with an introduction by Paul A. Bennett. (World Publishing Co., \$7.50). Mr. Bennett has gathered together in this handsome volume the wisdom of more than forty well-known printers and type designers.

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The Rounce and Coffin Club of Los Angeles gathered in that city last November to celebrate its twentieth anniversary. Jake Zeitlin gave an informal address entitled *Twenty Disorderly Years* which has been printed by Grant Dahlstrom at the Ampersand Press in Pasadena, for distribution to members and friends.

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An apology is due Mr. Merle Armitage for an unfortunately worded note on the A.I.G.A.'s exhibit of *Books for Our Time* (*Quarterly News-Letter*, Winter 1951). This note might imply that Mr. Armitage and Mr. Alvin Lustig, in arguing that contemporary book design is surfeited by tradition, were ready to sacrifice readability to make their point. Anyone who is acquainted with the books designed by these gentlemen knows that this is absurd. It was, as Mr. Armitage so generously puts it, "an oversimplification of the argument."

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Overheard in a bookshop recently: A young lady of a somewhat flamboyant appearance wished to buy a book for her boy friend. "And what type of book do you want?" the salesman asked. "I dunno," said the young lady. "Well, can you tell me what your friend's interests are?" The young lady shook her head. "I dunno," she said. Then she added brightly, "He's about your build."

## ☞ Notes on Publications

MEMBERS have recently received an announcement describing in some detail the first of the Club's 1952 publications: *The Coppa Murals: A Pageant of Bohemian Life in San Francisco at the Turn of the Century*. This handsome little book, reproducing the celebrated drawings that once adorned the walls of Coppa's Restaurant, rendezvous of the city's artists, writers, and musicians in the carefree days "before the Fire," with text by Warren W. Unna and foreword by Joseph Henry Jackson, has been attractively designed and printed by Adrian Wilson, with decorations by Mallette Dean. The book, celebrating as it does a colorful and little-known chapter in the artistic life of the city, seems destined to become a prized item of San Franciscana and members who have not yet placed their orders will be well advised to do so promptly. The edition is limited to 350 copies and the price is \$7.50.

The second 1952 publication, arrangements for which have now been completed, will be announced shortly. Here we shall state merely that it is being produced by Lewis and Dorothy Allen at their perambulating L-D Allen Press, which has temporarily abandoned the Bay Area and established itself in a villa on the French Riviera. In these lush and presumed inspiring surroundings, the Club's forthcoming publication is now being designed, printed, and bound—with, one may be sure, the meticulous care long characteristic of the productions of this press.

## ☞ Attention, Pioneers !

FOR SEVERAL MONTHS past, preparations have been under way for issuing the 1952 Keepsakes. These, the fifteenth of the annual series the Club has distributed to members, promise to be fully as interesting, and historically important as any of those provided in the past. The series, bearing the title *Attention, Pioneers!*, will be in twelve parts, each consisting of a skilfully reproduced facsimile of an early California broadside or poster, together with a folder bearing a text, written by an authority in the field, outlining the historical significance of the enclosure and the circumstances under which it was originally issued.

This novel and highly interesting series, edited by Oscar Lewis and with a distinguished list of contributors, is being designed, hand set in Stempel Jansen, and printed by Jack Stauffacher of the Greenwood Press, San Francisco. The first four parts will be distributed in April and the remaining eight will follow at intervals during the balance of the year.



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## C Exhibition Note

BEGINNING February 2, the Club will present an exhibition of contemporary French trade and book printing loaned for this purpose by the French Consul General. This show, as all succeeding shows, will continue for two months.

EXOTIC IMPRINTS: The book-collector who seeks rare or unrecorded imprints in the field of American printing finds that ground pretty well worked over. The classical field of European printing through the Eighteenth Century at least, was long ago exhausted. But for those inclined in that direction, there remains a wide area from which to gather specimens hardly to be matched on the shelves of American collectors. Such rarities are not all orchids and lilies, to be sure, but even the homely plants have their interest.

Of this character are the specimens brought home by Francis Farquhar last year from such widely different sites as Kalimpong (India), Arbil (Iraq), and Aegina (Greece). A selection from his gatherings will be on display during April in the Club rooms. Examples of Tibetan books include both block printing done at Lhasa and printing from movable type done at Kalimpong. There are also a Darjeeling imprint and a book in English printed at Agra, 1844.

Arbil, in modern Iraq, is the ancient Arbela, famous for its association with Alexander's conquest. It is one of the chief cities of the Kurds. Books printed in Kurdish are unusual, to say the least. On display will be a Kurdish-Arabic dictionary printed in Arbil.

Greek "incunabula" belong, not to the Fifteenth Century, but to the Nineteenth. The pall of Turkish oppression covered Greece throughout modern times until the War of Independence brought freedom in the 1820's. Consequently, books printed in Greece before, let us say, 1840, may well be considered as incunabula. A specimen printed in Aegina in 1832 will be included.

Mr. Farquhar, who calls his exhibit a "hodge-podge," says, rather slyly, that he will add certain startling modern Greek imprints, "not above the comprehension of the average Book Club member." For ardent collectors of American literary masterpieces, there will be a Mark Twain item of consummate interest.

## Flodden W. Heron

BY THE DEATH early in February of Flodden W. Heron, California lost one of its distinguished bibliophiles and the Club a valued friend and counsellor of many years standing. In the book collecting field his interests were broad and catholic, although his special enthusiasms were Stevenson and Lewis Carroll and on the lives and writings of these authors he made himself a recognized authority. Mr. Heron joined the Club in 1928, was elected a director two years later and served continuously on the board, including one term as president in 1945, until his death. His loyalty, sound judgment and many acts of generosity will be sorely missed.

# The Book Club of California

## IN RETROSPECT

by George L. Harding, for the Board of Directors

AS HAS become the custom in recent years, the formal announcement of the Annual Meeting of the Club to be held on Monday, March 24, 1952, appears in this, the Spring, issue of the *Quarterly News-Letter*. A brief accounting by the Board of Directors of their stewardship during the fiscal year that will close on February 29 is therefore appropriate at this time.

Throughout practically the entire year, the membership of the Club has stood at the constitutional limit of 750 members. There is currently a very small waiting list. This situation has not caused more than temporary disappointment or inconvenience. The size of the membership cannot be increased if the Club is to retain the characteristics that have made membership attractive and its office is to render acceptable service to its members.

Two publications only were issued during the year. Both were distinct publishing successes. *San Francisco in 1866*, by Bret Harte, being *Letters to the Springfield Republican*, edited by George R. Stewart and Edwin S. Fussell, was issued in June. It sold out immediately. The Christmas publication was *Sketches of Scenery and Notes of Personal Adventure in California and Mexico* by William M'Ilvaine Jr., with foreword by Robert G. Cleland. It was offered for subscription at a special, payment-with-order, prepublication price. All but a few of the 400 copies were sold on this basis. Both of these publications were printed by the Grabhorn Press.

It is interesting to note in passing that all of the four publications issued by the Club in 1950 were included in the 1950 *Western Books*, sponsored by the Rounce & Coffin Club, and that two were included in the 1950 *Fifty Books of the Year*, sponsored by the American Institute of Graphic Arts.

The Keepsake series, *Pioneer Western Play Bills*, edited by Dr. Frank Fenton of San Francisco State College, and printed by The Westgate Press, Oakland, was outstanding. Like the series of the preceding year, it proved, surprisingly and unexpectedly, difficult editorially.



## Quarterly News Letter

The committee, consisting of Albert Sperisen, John W. Borden, and Robert N. Bloch, that has supervised the monthly exhibits in the Club's quarters continued its outstanding work during the year. In the belief the quality of these exhibits was not fully appreciated by the membership, the practice of sending out a postcard announcement of each show was begun. A noticeable increase in attendance was the result.

The Library has grown steadily. It has benefited greatly from the supervision and work of Wilson Duprey of the staff at Stanford University Library.

The *News-Letter* Editorial Committee lost Lewis Allen as its chairman. Allen is spending a year studying printing in Europe. However, David Magee picked up the reins with the Winter issue and all appears to be going well. The event of the *News-Letter* year was the inclusion with the Summer issue of a special Keepsake, printed by the Grabhorn Press as a memorial to Porter Garnett who has been described as "America's greatest teacher of printing."

The Saturday Open Houses have continued to be a delight to those able to attend.

Another fiscal year is closing. Again, many members have worked on many problems and have consistently had the patient and enthusiastic assistance of our tactful secretary, Mrs. Elizabeth Downs. The Club is truly for, of, and by, its members.

### Answers to Literary Questionnaire

1. Recuyell of the Historyes of Troyes. By Raoul Le Fevre. Printed at Bruges, ca. 1475, by William Caxton in association with Colard Mansion.
2. The Compleat Angler. By Izaak Walton.
3. a. Riceyman Steps. By Arnold Bennett.  
b. Private Papers of a Bankrupt Bookseller. By Wm. Y. Darling.  
c. Parnassus on Wheels. By Christopher Morley.  
d. The Bondage of Ballinger. By Roswell Field.  
Also  
The Haunted Bookshop. By Christopher Morley.
4. Poems on Various Subjects. By Phillis Wheatley. Boston, 1773. (Also) An Elegiac Poem on the Death of George Whitefield . . . 1770. [Pamphlet].
5. a. Rhymes by Two Friends. By Wm. Allen White and Albert Bigelow Paine. 1893.

# The Book Club of California

- b. *A Lume Spento*. By Ezra Pound. 1908.
- c. *Leaves From a Grass House*. By Don Blanding. 1923.
- d. *Three Stories and Ten Poems*. By Ernest Hemingway. 1923.
- e. *The Eighth Sin*. By Christopher Morley. 1912.
- f. *Oak and Ivy*. By Paul Lawrence Dunbar. 1893.
- g. *In Reckless Ecstasy*. By Carl Sandburg. 1904.
- 6. Elizabeth Peabody.
- 7. *Congressional Government*. By Woodrow Wilson. 1885. By order of Rear Admiral F. E. Chadwick.  
(Also)  
*Rules for Regulation of the Navy of the United Colonies*. [By John Adams.] 1775. Given to all commissioned officers of the U. S. Navy.
- 8. *Ventures Into Verse*. By H. L. Mencken. 1903.
- 9. *Martin Waldseemuller. Cosmographiae Introductio*. 1507.
- 10. *Kate Douglas Wiggin. (The Story of Patsy)*. 1883.)
- 11. E. P. Roe. (*Barriers Burned Away*). 1872.
- 12. Francis Hopkinson.
- 13. Samuel F. B. Morse.
- 14. Charles Henry Webb.
- 15. a. *Vathek*. By William Beckford.  
b. *Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*.  
c. *Salome*. By Oscar Wilde.  
(Also others)
- 16. *Elegy ... in a Country Churchyard*. By Thomas Gray. 1st Ed. 1751. 12 pages. \$12,000 (Kern Sale, Jan. 1929).
- 17. (1) *Benjamin Penhallow Shillaber*. (Pseud: Mrs. Partington).  
(2) *William Comstock*. (Pseud: Betsey Jane Ward).  
(3) *Henry Adams*. (Pseud: Frances Snow Compton).  
(4) *James Fenimore Cooper*. (Pseud: Jane Morgan).  
(Also others)
- 18. L. Frank Baum.
- 19. a. *Motion Picture Cartoons* by Pat Sullivan.  
b. *A Scientific Inquiry Into the Use of the Cricket Bat*. By Nicholas Wanoostrocht. 1845.
- 20. *Poinsettia*. (Named for Joel R. Poinsette.)
- 21. *William Cobbett, sued by Dr. Benjamin Rush*.
- 22. *Karl Anton Postl*. ["Chas. Sealsfield"; "Seatsfield?"]
- 23. a. *Ben Hur*.  
b. *Lorna Doone*.  
c. *Oliver Twist*.  
d. *The Last of the Mohicans*.
- 24. a. *Israel Potter*. By Herman Melville.  
b. *Pierre*. By Herman Melville.  
c. *The Fiend's Delight*. By Ambrose Bierce.  
d. *The Torrent and the Night Before*. By Edwin A. Robinson.

## Annual Meeting

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the Book Club of California will be held in the Club's office, 549 Market Street, San Francisco, on Monday, March 24, at 11:30 a.m.

ELIZABETH DOWNS, *Secretary*



# Quarterly News Letter

## Elected to Membership

*The following have been elected to membership since the Winter issue of the News-Letter:*

MEMBER	ADDRESS	SPONSOR
Holt Alden	San Francisco	David Magee
W. B. Beatty	Menlo Park	Herbert Fahey
George E. Blum	Oakland	Mrs. Elizabeth Downs
Mrs. A. Lincoln Brown	San Francisco	David Magee
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Herbert Fahey	San Francisco	Mrs. John I. Walter
Mrs. R. F. Ferguson	San Francisco	Mrs. Elizabeth Downs
Walter Giersbach	Forest Grove, Oregon	Harry H. Kem
John Porter Gilbert	San Francisco	Warren Unna
Henry O. Klein	San Francisco	Lawrence Livingston
Alfred A. Knopf, Jr.	New York, New York	James I. Nourse
Mrs. John LeBolt	Deerfield, Illinois	B. F. Schlesinger
Michael Litven	Oakland	Mrs. Elizabeth Downs
Carl Bertil Lund	San Francisco	James W. Elliott
Judge Theresa Meikle	San Francisco	Lawrence Livingston
Walter McNiff	San Francisco	Joseph Bransten
George H. Pomeroy	Oakland	John Martin Hardy
James W. Shoemaker	San Francisco	Harry W. Abrahams
Mrs. Martin Stelling	Rutherford	Lawrence Livingston
Bradbury Thompson	New York, New York	P. K. Thomajan
Ernest Vogt	San Francisco	Robert Newton Bloch
Sam Weil	Evansville, Indiana	Mrs. Elizabeth Downs
Mrs. Paul Wormser	San Francisco	Mrs. Elizabeth Downs

## Western Books—1952

The best-printed books produced in the West during 1951 were chosen for awards Feb. 16 by a jury of book experts appointed by the Rounce & Coffin Club, it was announced by the Club today.

Of 80 books entered in the competition by western printers, 33 were selected for awards by the jury, which consisted of Dana Jones, Pasadena book collector and member of the Zamorano Club; David Magee, San Francisco bookseller and member of the Roxburghe Club; and Kemper Nomland Jr., Los Angeles printer and member of the Rounce & Coffin Club.

The 33 books selected as outstanding now comprise an exhibition entitled "Western Books 1952" which will go on display concurrently in Los Angeles and San Francisco on March 15 and which will be shown at 30 public and academic libraries throughout the West during the coming 12 months.

Fourteen western printers are represented in the exhibition, which includes seven books from the University of California Press, Berkeley and Los Angeles; six books from the Ward Ritchie Press, Los Angeles; and four books each from the Castle Press, Pasadena, and the Grabhorn Press, San Francisco.

# The Book Club of California

Since its inception in 1938, the purpose of the exhibition has been to stimulate the production of fine books in the West by gathering together each year the best examples of the craft. A second aim is to acquaint the public with the quality and quantity of book publishing being done by western printers.

The Rounce & Coffin Club of Los Angeles, sponsor of the annual exhibition, is composed of librarians, booksellers, and printers. Two members of the club, Wm. R. Eshelman, serials librarian at Los Angeles State College Library, and Robert S. Hirano, Pasadena book designer, are co-chairmen of this year's exhibition.

## WESTERN BOOKS—1952

### UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA PRESS, Berkeley and Los Angeles

Puryear, Vernon J. *Napoleon and the Dardanelles*. Speck, F. G. and Leonard Broom. *Cherokee Dance and Drama*. Carosso, Vincent P. *California Wine Industry*. Parkinson, Thomas. *W. B. Yeats Self-Critic*. Beazley, Sir John D. *Development of Attic Black-Figure*. Rudolph, Richard C. and Yu Wen. *Han Tomb Art of West China*. Hammond, George P. (ed.) *The Larkin Papers*.

### ANDERSON & RITCHIE, Los Angeles

Powell, L. C. *Islands of Books*. Hyde, Laurence. *Southern Cross*. Elwood, Louie B. and J. W. Elwood. *Rebellious Welsh*. Taylor, R. R. *Seeing the Elephant*. Brown, Helen E. *Patio Cook Book*. Jones, Louise S. *The Human Side of Bookplates*.

### CASTLE PRESS, Pasadena

Brown, Helen E. *Some Shrimp Recipes*. Brown, Helen E. *Some Oyster Recipes*. Simmons, Frederic. *Mobilization & Inflation*. Le Netrel, Edmond. *Voyage of the Heros*.

### STANFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, Stanford

Jones, Richard F. *The Seventeenth Century*. Arnstein, Flora J. *Adventure into Poetry*.

### ADRIAN WILSON, San Francisco

Gerstle, Sara. *Four Ghost Stories*. Anthony, George. *Scholar Dunce*.

### GRABHORN PRESS, San Francisco

Shakespeare, William. *The Tempest*. Machen, Arthur. *Bridles & Spurs*.

### BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA, San Francisco (Printed by the Grabhorn Press)

Harte, Bret. *Letters*. McIlvaine, William. *Sketches of Scenery & Notes of Personal Adventure in California & Mexico*.

### LANE PUBLISHING Co., Menlo Park

Aller, Doris. *Sunset Wood Carving Book*.

### CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, San Francisco

Rogers, Fred B. *Bear Flag Lieutenant*.

### HERBERT AND PETER FAHEY, San Francisco

Fahey, Herbert. *Finishing in Hand Bookbinding*.

### HUNTINGTON LIBRARY, San Marino

Cleland, Robert G. *Cattle on a Thousand Hills*.

### A. R. TOMMASINI, San Francisco

Hazlitt, William. *On the Conversation of Authors*.

### GLEN DAWSON, Los Angeles

Meadows, Don. *Baja California*.

### GREENWOOD PRESS, San Francisco

Spiegelberg, Frederic. *Spiritual Practices of India*.

### FEATHERED SERPENT PRESS, Fairfax

Richardson, Leon J. *Old Cronies*.



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# THE LARKIN PAPERS

*Personal, Business, and Official Correspondence  
of Thomas Oliver Larkin, Merchant and United  
States Consul in California* Edited by George  
P. Hammond, Director of the Bancroft Library

Thomas Oliver Larkin, probably the most influential merchant in Mexican California, was the first and only United States Consul in California. His various duties and activities resulted in a rich and varied correspondence. These documents, totaling more than four thousand pieces, were received by the Bancroft Library from the Larkin family. Hubert Howe Bancroft wrote of them: "This collection is beyond all comparison the best source of information on the history of 1845-6."

Volume I, published in December, 1951, touches upon such events as the establishment of Sutter's Fort near the Sacramento, the arrival of the first overland-to-California parties in 1841, the establishment of the Hudson's Bay Company in San Francisco, and the arrival at Santa Barbara of California's first bishop. This volume marks the closing of an era. Already there was an acceleration of events which was to find its climax in war, the American acquisition of California, and the Gold Rush, with which the subsequent volumes in this series deal in detail.

THE LARKIN PAPERS are being published by the University of California Press in ten volumes at \$10.00 a volume. Subscription price is \$9.00 a volume. The volumes will be published at the rate of two or three a year, and subscribers will be billed separately for each volume as it is published. The last volume will be an index to the set.

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